



# Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh

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***For more than a century, Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh has been a leader in programs and services for people of all ages who are blind, vision impaired, or who have other disabilities. Our mission is to change the lives of the persons we serve by fostering independence and individual choice.***

## **Our services include:**

- Child and adult vision screening
- Computer training
- Low vision rehabilitation
- Personal Adjustment to Blindness Training
- Services for seniors
- Youth programs
- Employment services
- Employment opportunities
- Structured day programs
- Vocational rehabilitation



## **Vision Screening for Children and Adults**



The agency's foremost contribution to the prevention of blindness is our free Vision Screening program. Every year, our professional screening technicians screen thousands of children ages 1 to 6 years for vision deficiencies. A child's sight can be saved if some vision deficiencies are detected early. We also conduct free adult vision screenings.

## **Computer Access Technology**

The agency offers training in accessible technologies, including screen-reading software, screen magnification, Braille displays, smart phones, and other computer technology in our state-of-the-art center. We offer individualized instruction to meet the needs

of beginners, career professionals, and seniors.

## **Low Vision Rehabilitation**

Our specially trained optometrist performs comprehensive eye exams and prescribes optical aids, ranging from hand-held magnifiers to electronic devices, designed to maximize remaining eyesight for low vision patients. Our occupational therapist then trains patients to use the aids for daily activities like reading, watching television, and balancing checkbooks.

Additionally, we are partners in a treatment program that uses an **implantable miniature telescopic lens** for patients with end-stage, age-related macular degeneration.

## **Adjustment to Blindness Training**

This comprehensive residential program teaches clients to adjust to their vision loss. We provide instruction in such daily activities as communication, cooking, exercise, orientation and mobility, leisure pastimes, and more.

## Services for Seniors

The **New Outlook Program** offers classes and training in adaptive skills and techniques for seniors who are vision impaired. Individuals in this program learn to safely accomplish household tasks such as cooking.

The **In-home Instruction/Community Based Training** program helps seniors adjust, adapt, and continue to live independently with vision loss. We provide personalized needs assessment and education in areas such as mobility, daily living activities, communications, and basic computer skills.

Eligible individuals with vision loss can request **Transportation Services** from their homes to appointments and support services such as help with shopping and filling out forms.

## Youth Programs

We offer a school-to-work program that prepares young people who are blind or vision impaired for employment. Our job coaches work on site at local businesses and organizations to provide support to both the high school students with disabilities and the employers. In addition, we have a five-week summer residential program that offers work experiences and independence training to students ages 14-21.



## Employment Services

Our **Employment Support Services** specialists assist employers in recruiting, hiring, and retaining qualified workers and help job seekers find competitive employment. Our services include resume and interview preparation, job-seeking skill development, community-based assessments, work site analysis for accommodations, job coaching supports, and follow-up services.

The **Deaf Blind Vocational Program** is a partnership with the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and provides vocational services to Pennsylvania residents with hearing and vision loss. We provide services and training to individuals in this program that enhance their independence and help in securing competitive employment.

## Structured Day Programs

The **Community Transition Program** is licensed through the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs. This training program develops, improves, and expands life-long learning opportunities for adults who have physical impairments or developmental disabilities. Activities include instruction in personal care and social interaction, arts and crafts projects, building and assembly, and shape and color sorting.

The **Senior Transition Program**, licensed by the Pennsylvania Office of Long Term Living through the Department of Aging, is a day program designed to enrich the lives of older adults with vision loss, hearing loss, and other disabilities. The program aims to promote independence and self-esteem through structured activities such as community outings, exercise, cooking, games, and arts and crafts projects.

**Employment Transition Services** is licensed through the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs and provides persons with vision loss or other disabilities a supportive day program where they learn responsibilities required for employment. Through vocational training and work experiences, individuals develop skills for success in everyday life and in the working world.



## PBA Industries

PBA Industries is our manufacturing and assembly division. More than 90 percent of PBA Industries workers are blind or vision impaired craftsmen who create products both to fill government contracts and for sale to private businesses. Our products include construction safety products, portable highway signs, signage, and textiles.